

August 2025

2024/25 Year in Review

Following are highlights of the significant trade and technical issues addressed by ABC this past year:

- After years of discussion, Global Trade and Regulatory Affairs (GTRA) staff working with USDA and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor & Welfare (MHLW) aligned on a voluntary aflatoxin pre-testing protocol for the export of California almonds to Japan, which reduces inspection on arrival from 100% to no more than 5%. In addition, a procedure is being finalized for reprocessing rejected shipments, rather than having to bring them back to U.S.
- Successful visits by GTRA staff to Morocco, Turkey, India, China, Japan, Korea and various EU countries not only identified new market opportunities, but helped to expand and strengthen our alliances, partnerships and engagement with key regulatory agencies.
- Cooperation with India's Ministry of Food Processing was initiated to support ingredient usage and food processing opportunities.
- UK authorities worked with staff and the USDA office in London to adapt the existing EU Pre-Export Check program for UK requirements.
- GTRA visits to Pakistan in 2024 and ongoing meetings with USDA/FAS staff culminated in 50% reduction in tariffs and other fees related to imported almonds.
- Continued GTRA staff work with USDA and FDA added more handler facilities to China's GACC registration list. The renewal process has begun for around 60 facilities registered with GACC since 2022.
- GTRA/Almond Quality staff participation in the UNECE forum in Geneva led to recognition of three standards (inshell, kernel, blanched almond kernels) and an almond quality poster.
- ABC hosted its largest annual Environmental Stewardship Tour, showcasing ongoing research and almond stewardship practices to more than 50 state and federal agency staff.

Issues Resolution and Formal Comments:

More than 50 issues were addressed this year, helping shippers access their global markets. To build on the synergies to educate officials on key almond industry issues, the GTRA team worked closely with the Almond Alliance to provide comments on various pieces of proposed regulations impacting growing to shipping almonds.

Global Trade Strategy:

GTRA staff have been moving forward with a comprehensive trade strategy based on priorities established by the ABC Board of Directors:

- Close collaboration with U.S. trade officials and foreign industry partners ensured key almond concerns were included in ongoing trade negotiations.
- ABC successfully secured Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) and Emerging Markets Program (EMP) funds to expand India programs, and complete market assessments of North Africa, Turkey, Brazil, and Indonesia.
- Successful "Almonds 101" workshop at Gulfood and first Morocco trade meeting identified new importer contacts, and possible solutions for import issues.
- GTRA and Market Development teams are working closely together to initiate a partnership activity with an International Bakery School in Morocco and to launch some almond nutritional programs in Turkey.

Representing ABC and California Almonds:

Participation in global organizations and technical committees assisted in mitigating trade barriers.

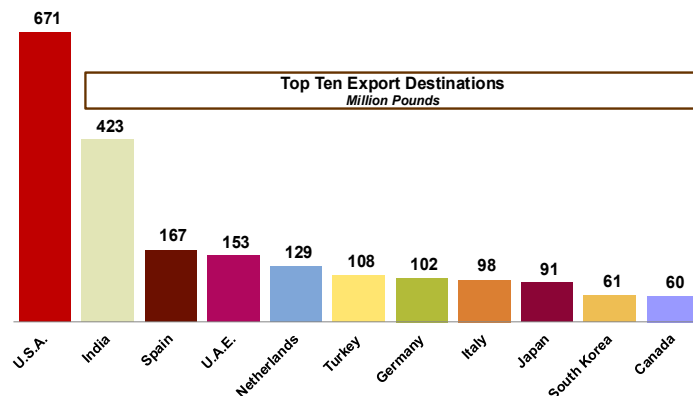
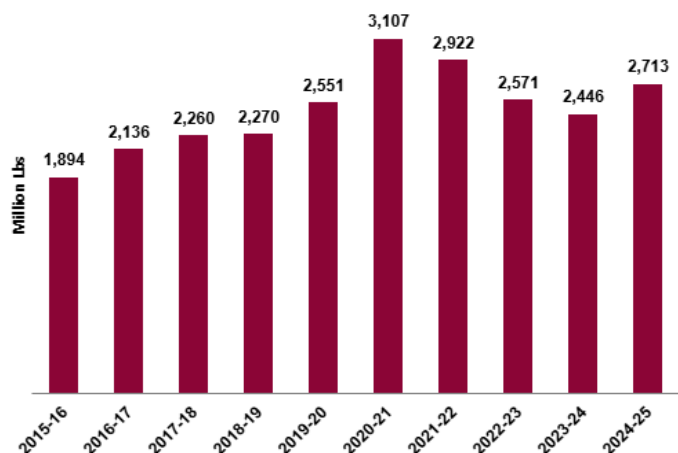
- GTRA staff sit on European technical committees and chair various working groups as well as attending regulatory, sustainability, and scientific meetings in Japan, Korea, and China.
- Through INC, staff represent the global nut industry at CODEX meetings related to pesticide MRLs.



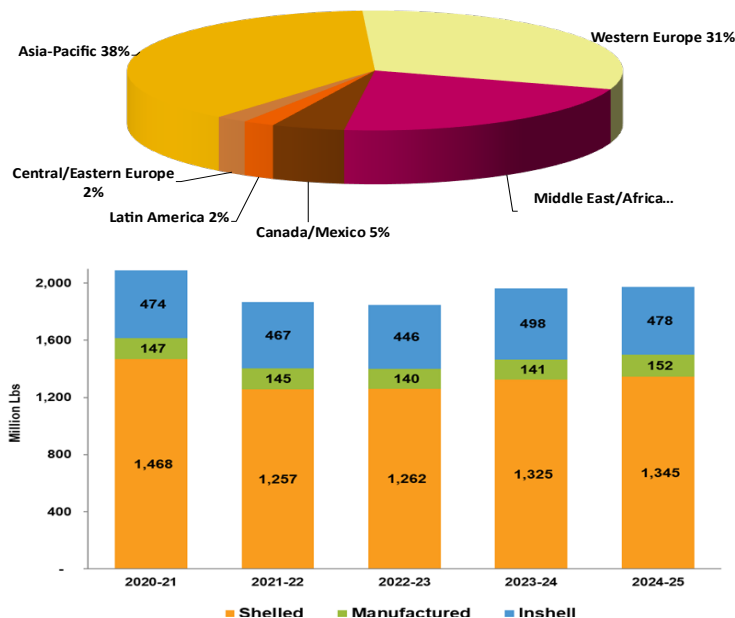
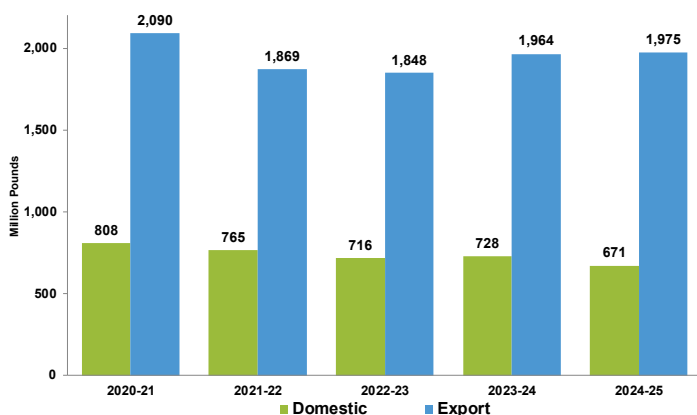
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FY 24/25 Production: 2.7billion pounds

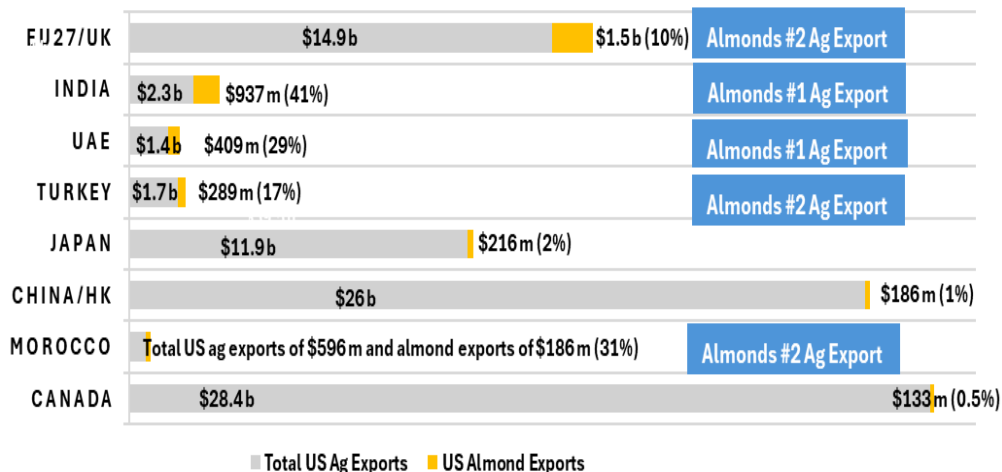
FY 24/25 Export Shipments: Top 10, Region, Products



FY 24/25 Shipments: 2.64 billion pounds
Domestic 25%; Export 75%



U.S. Agricultural Exports by Value, Calendar Year 2024



Your GTRA Team

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The Global Update is a publication by the Almond Board of California (ABC). For more information, please contact the Almond Board at 209-549-8262 or regulatoryissues@almondboard.com. The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge. ABC welcomes the participation of all industry members and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, religion, age, disability or political beliefs.